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the last, petty, useless bulwarks of capitalistic despotism, behind which profits are fighting their last battle; and to demolish it is the task of the laboring classes, who do but claim their rights, protesting against the egotism of capitalists, who to gain paltry advantages do them and their country grave injuries. It is only in the triumph of these new classes, and in a new social and economic departure, that the final discomfiture of protectionism can be expected (p. 258).

Remarks to like effect, though more moderate in tone, abound (pp. 113, 130, 154, 170, 171, 266, 274, 279, 280).

From the second essay it is a relief to turn to the third, which traces the growth of the theory of protection through the writings of Hamilton, List, Carey and Patten. List is given more importance than his connection with the United States warrants. Carey is justly treated with severity. But foreigners have rated him so high that a real service is done by a critical summary of his work. The analysis and estimate of the work of Hamilton and Patten is commendable.

In conclusion it may be said that as a summary of the more important facts in United States tariff history, and as an analysis of the writings of protectionists, the work is of value, particularly to those Italians who, while wishing to know the commercial history of this country, have not a ready command of English, but as an explanation of the causes of our commercial policy it is worse than useless.

WILLIAM HILL.

Report on Wages and Hours of Labor. Board of Trade, Labor Department. London: printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office by Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1894.

Part I., Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labor in the United Kingdom in 1893. 8vo. pp. lxxxi+222.

Part II., Standard Piece Rates. 8vo. pp. xviii+232.

Part III., Standard Time Rates. 8vo. pp. xii+278.

THE primary object of this tripartite report is to record and interpret all important changes in rates of wages occurring in Great Britain during the year 1893. The present report indicates also the preliminary results of the investigation of the same phenomena during 1894. If, as is hoped, the inquiry is continued year by year upon parallel lines, it will make available a mass of comparative data showing in

great detail the effect on market wages "of periods of depression and inflation of trade, and of the general progress of society." So far as the results for the years 1893-4 furnish a safe basis for induction, they indicate a remarkable stability in the average standard of remuneration.

It is somewhat anomalous that in a year of depression such as 1893, the changes show on the average a slight increase in prevailing rates of wages. The explanation is that the depressed conditions of industry lessened the regularity of employment, but did not at once operate to reduce the prevailing rates of wages paid. A further special explanation is that the great suspension of coal mining, while not producing a fall in the districts affected, resulted indirectly in raising miners' wages in other parts of the country. The preliminary statistics for 1894 indicate, as might be expected, a fall in the average scale of wages during that year. The downward tendency in 1894 was mainly confined to the mining, metal, and glass bottle-making industries. The effect of the changes of 1893 upon the different trade groups is indicated by the following table:

TRADE GROUPS	Per cent. of the persons engaged in the industry who were affected by changes of wages in 1893	Net resulting change per head per week calculated on the total number affected by the changes
Mining and quarrying.....	43.3	<i>s. d.</i> +0 11 ¹ / ₄
Metal, engineering and shipbuilding	11.5	-0 10 ³ / ₄
Building.....	5.1	+1 9
Textiles	4.1	-0 4 ¹ / ₄

The changes in the hours of labor during both years were almost uniformly in the direction of reduction. In 1893 the net result of the changes investigated was equivalent to an average reduction of two hours per week in the working time of the 34,649 persons affected.

The second and third volumes of the report, describing in detail typical existing arrangements of piece and time rates, are intended in part as a complement of the present and of future reports of wage changes, but they have an entirely independent value as careful inductive studies of the various and often complicated methods of remuneration which prevail in the industrial world.

CARLOS C. CLOSSON.